



April 2, 2014

WOW! There is just no other way to describe the marathon day APASK had on Mar. 29. We started the day at 9 a.m. with a Board of Directors meeting which melded right into the Annual General Meeting at 1 p.m. The AGM wrapped up about 4:00 p.m. and was followed by a quick meeting of the Board with elections of new executive. I would like to welcome our new Board members and thank all the members who took time away from their weekend to come to the meeting and share their thoughts and concern. We are welcoming new Board members Chris Archibald, Ashley Kosolowsky and Rhonda Senecal.

Your new APASK Board of Directors is:

Executive

Darren Tait – Chair – Prince Albert	email:
Ex Officio – all committees	
Chris Archibald – Vice Chair - Prince Albert	email:
Legislative Committee	
Troy Pelletier – Secretary – Prince Albert	email:
Ruth White – Treasurer – Saskatoon	email:
Co-Chair of Conference Committee	

Members at Large

Barb Robinson – Education/Training - Certification committee chair – Prince Albert	email:
Laurel Mackie – Marketing and Promotions Chair – Creighton	email:
Co-Chair of Conference Committee	
Membership committee	
Brenda Hearn – Membership committee chair – Saskatoon	email:
Self-regulation/Legislation committee chair	
Rhonda Senecal – membership committee – Melfort	email:
Ashley Kosolowsky – Ethics committee – Prince Albert	email:

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation for the excellent work done by departing Board members, John Kreiser whose work and diligence as chair of the Ethics Committee has set APASK in a very positive place in moving toward a self-regulated professional organization, and Doneen Ferris, who has relocated to assist our neighbours to the west.

Thank you to you both for your time, energy and insights. John has graciously agreed to continue to sit as a member of the ethics committee and provide some continuity in building the committee further.

As you can see we continue to be “Sask. north” heavy on the Board and continue to seek input and committee members from the southern half of the province.

What unites us necessitates we work together to find better ways.

There were two pieces of correspondence for discussion from the general membership: one regarding the term “Associate Member” and the meaning of that term which generated some discussion around how does this term identify and respect the wisdom, knowledge and experience of retired members who are no longer actively employed as addictions counsellors on a regular basis and whose income is generally reduced but who continue to have much to offer to the Association.

The second involved raising concerns that CACCF was “forced” to align with APASK creating a dilemma for long-standing CACCF members who may feel forced to now belong to APASK when it was never required before. Certainly the need for clarity was identified. CACCF and APASK have been working together on amalgamating since 2006 when the last approach to the Legislature was made to recognize Addictions Professionals as a professional body with specific knowledge, skills and abilities. It was felt that APASK, in and of itself, did not have the profile or the funds to put testing and certification in place; that CACCF already had those things in place and could be piggy backed with. Thus the Memorandum of Agreement was created and has gone back and forth between the two organizations for the past three years and was finally signed on Oct. 8. 2013. Like so many times in the past, Saskatchewan is breaking the trail. Alberta is hot on our heels and is due to sign the same kind of agreement shortly and Ontario is right behind them using our MOA as a template.

There continues to be interest in the bursaries, the SABAS bursary and the Mary Muir bursary. Applications have been received and the decisions will be announce at a later date. The winners will be recognized at the conference this fall, which incidentally, we are targeting for Oct. 22 and 23 in Saskatoon.

There has been some discussion around creating an external advisory committee made up of knowledgeable people across the province that may or may not be APASK members or even Addiction Professionals. This could serve to increase the scope of knowledge available and offer a broader network of support for APASK’s future ventures one of which includes again pursuing self-regulation. We would be grateful for member’s input on this idea and them bringing forward people they feel would be a good fit.

We are currently in decent financial condition. It was felt that having a bookkeeping company in place has made the financial functions far more accessible in the past year. The Board continues to learn about the parameters of being a non-profit corporation which will stand us on a better foundation in approaching legislature again which it is hoped we will be able to put a case together before the fall sitting this year.

Congratulations were sent to the Executive of what is now known as SIAST on behalf of APASK. Come July 1st the name and brand will change to Sask. Poly-Technical Institute and the Addiction Counselling program will be changing home from Community Services to the School of Health and Science. This could be a great move for us as addiction professionals because it aligns us further with the concept that addiction is a brain disease that requires special training and skills to treat rather than simply giving people a nice person to talk to.

For you that may not have opened the last blast email, keep in mind the next certification crash course on May 23 in LaRonge. If you need more information, email me back and I will forward a brochure. As you see I could go on and on about all the new directions happening. Again, we look forward to hearing from the membership. If you have something you would like to include in this communique or some training event that we can put up on the website for you, please forward it to me and I will try to make it happen.

Brenda Hearn, BA, CCEd, MTS, ICADE, CSAP, ICCDP, CEAP
Chairperson, Membership Committee, APASK Board of Directors